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ABSTRACT

Incoming freshmen at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington completed evaluations of their two-day orientation. The Orientation Evaluation is administered to freshmen who have chosen to participate in one of three sessions: Summer Orientation, Learning, Advising, and Registration sessions (SOLAR). A total of 166 students completed the questionnaire (18 percent of those who preregistered in mid-June, 1984). The overall orientation experience was judged as worthwhile by 92 percent of the respondents. A majority of students were very satisfied with the efforts of student affairs staff in helping them to preregister (57 percent), helping them to meet other new students (55 percent), and getting to know their academic adviser (56 percent). Students also rated the following processes: residence hall check-in/out, student identifications, administration of placement tests and freshmen survey; cafeteria food services, housing facilities, the information packet provided at orientation, and the financial aid session. Students also indicated any of seven learning assistance programs they might wish to pursue. Fifty-two percent checked at least one program. Study skills and test-taking strategies were chosen most often. The evaluation form and seven figures are appended. (SW)

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STUDENT EVALUATION OF Summer Orientation, Learning, Advising, and Registration

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RB-DOS-72484

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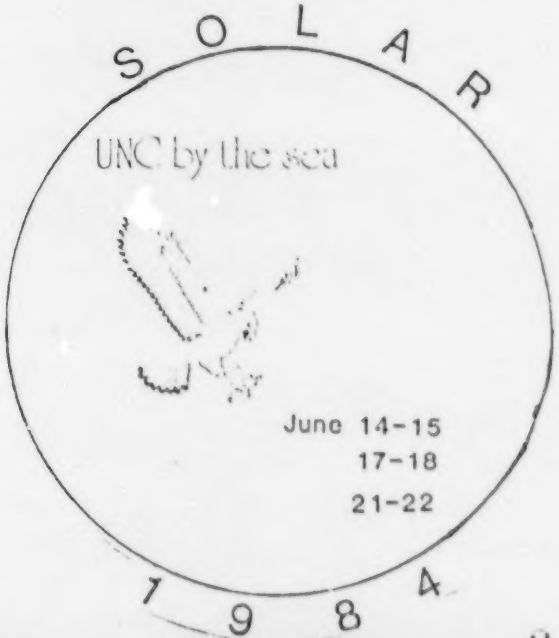

ORIENTATION EVALUATION

Introduction

This evaluation was conducted for the Dean of Students Office with the sole purpose of collecting and using student feedback to make decisions about the orientation program. These efforts are necessary to assess student needs, to determine a plan of action to meet these needs, and to evaluate the effectiveness of any particular strategy.

Method

The Orientation Evaluation is a survey administered to incoming freshmen who have chosen to participate in one of three available SOLAR (Summer Orientation, Learning, Advising, and Registration) sessions. This report describes the reactions of 166 students who completed a survey of 29 questions (see Appendix). These students represent 18 percent of 916 who preregistered between June 14-22. Data are presented pictorially in the Appendix.

Evaluation forms were included in each student's orientation packet. It was stressed during the introductory sessions that they should complete the evaluations at the end of their two day orientation and turn them in at the last preregistration station. Unfortunately, many students failed to have their packets with them during the preregistration period. Corrective measures are being considered to encourage a higher response rate in the future.

Results

In general, SOLAR received a favorable rating from respondents (see Figure 1). Almost all (92 percent) rated their overall orientation experience as at least worthwhile (see Figure 2). When asked how satisfied they were with efforts by Student Affairs staff members in assisting them, they responded as follows: a majority were "very satisfied" with preregistering them for fall courses (57 percent), helping them meet other new students (55 percent), and getting to know their academic adviser (56 percent). Over half (56 percent) said they were only "somewhat satisfied" with our efforts in assisting them in getting to know the Student Affairs staff (see Figure 3).

Processes that were rated by a majority as "easy to understand and carry out" included residence hall check-in/out (87 percent), student ID's (70 percent), and administration of the placement tests and freshmen survey (54 percent). Preregistration was rated similarly as above by nearly a majority (45 percent). Students rated cafeteria food services as 43 percent "excellent" and 45 percent "ok." Housing facilities were deemed "ok" by 59 percent, with nearly a third (31 percent) responding "excellent" (see Figure 4).

Several items were rated as either "informative and helpful," "of some use," or "no help." Nearly all (87 percent) thought the information packet was "informative and helpful," while just over half (55 percent) rated the introductory session this way. The financial aid session was rated "of some use" by 42 percent of students, with nearly a third (32 percent) saying it was "no help" (see Figure 5).

A majority of parents (65 percent) did not attend the orientation program. Of the 58 students who claimed their parents attended, over half (60 percent) said they thought it was "helpful" for their parents, with a third saying it was "of some use." Over half (55 percent) rated the orientation counselors as "helpful," with nearly two out of five saying they were "extremely helpful."

Of various educational/recreational activities conducted, nearly all were rated as at least "bearable." The Students Services Arcade was viewed as "fun" by 57 percent of the respondents. Nearly half rated the Scavenger Hunt (48 percent) and orientation movie (46 percent) as "fun." Advisory information and assistance was viewed by 95 percent of the students as either "fun" (48 percent) or "bearable" (47 percent) (see Figure 6).

When asked to rate their own awareness of how and where to use most campus support services, 70 percent said they were "aware." Another fifth (21 percent) claimed they were "very aware."

Finally, students were asked to check off any of seven learning assistance programs they might be interested in and leave their name so they might be contacted (see Figure 7). Of the 166 respondents, 87 (52 percent) checked at least one program and left their name. Of the seven programs listed, students chose an average of two and a half programs. Several listed as many as five or six programs. Study skills and test taking strategies were chosen more often (50) than any other program. Time management, reading skills, and math skills all tied with 37 checks each. Of the 35 who chose reading skills and left their name, seven (20 percent) opted for speed reading rather than remedial. The least chosen of the identified programs was writing skills (26). Three people chose "other," with one specifying communication skills and another citing science skills (the third person did not specify).

Summary and Recommendations

When almost all of any group rates its experience as no less than worthwhile you can be confident that at least some significant needs are being met. The indisputable strengths of the SOLAR experience for respondents are the residence hall procedures and the information packet. Although no area was rated consistently low, students had the most problem identifying the utility of the Financial Aid session. Comments were not solicited. As might be expected, a fifth rated the preregistration process as "a real pain."

Probably the most glaring weakness to be overcome is in the area of response rates. Last year, 734 surveys were completed compared to 166 this year. It is recommended that students be asked to turn-in their completed evaluation prior to checking-out of the residence halls. Forms would also be made available at the entrances/exits during preregistration. Construction of the evaluation is another area meriting revision. If multiple choice items are to be used then homogenous options might make completion of the evaluation more fluid. Using various headings (e.g., "worthwhile," "satisfied," "excellent," etc.) may be viewed as just another inconvenience to add to the stress of preregistering.

Please send any comments/suggestions to Dave Allen (Hoggard, Rm. 210). Thank you.

ORIENTATION EVALUATION

PLEASE TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO COMPLETE THIS IMPORTANT EVALUATION. YOUR RESPONSES WILL HELP US HELP OTHERS MAKE THE MOVE INTO COLLEGE LIFE AS SMOOTH AND PRODUCTIVE AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE CHECK (✓) ONLY ONE RESPONSE PER QUESTION.

1. How worthwhile would you rate your Orientation experience?

Very Worthwhile	Worthwhile	Somewhat Worthwhile	Not Very Worthwhile	Worthless
( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH OUR EFFORTS TO ASSIST YOU IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING?

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Dissatisfied
2. Pre-registering you for Fall courses?	( )	( )	( )
3. Helping you meet other new students?	( )	( )	( )
4. Getting to know your Academic Advisor?	( )	( )	( )
5. Getting to know our Student Affairs Staff?	( )	( )	( )

PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING PROCESSES:

	Easy to understand and carry out	Bearable	A Real Pain
6. Residence Hall Check-in/Check-out.	( )	( )	( )
7. Student I. D.'s.	( )	( )	( )
8. Pre-Registration.	( )	( )	( )
9. Administration of the English/Math Placement Tests and Freshman Survey.	( )	( )	( )

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT OUR:

	Excellent	O.K.	Needs Improvement
10. Cafeteria Food Services.	( )	( )	( )
11. Housing Facilities.	( )	( )	( )

PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS.

	Informative and Helpful	Of Some Use	No Help
12. Information packet.	( )	( )	( )
13. Introductory Session.	( )	( )	( )
14. Financial Aid Session.	( )	( )	( )

	Yes	No
15. Did your parent(s) attend the summer Orientation Program?	( )	( )

16. If yes to #15, how helpful do you think it was for them?

Helpful	Of Some Use	No Help	Unknown
( )	( )	( )	( )

PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING:

	Extremely Helpful	Helpful	Barely Helpful	No Help
17. Orientation Counselors.	( )	( )	( )	( )
	Fun	**Bearable**	**Lacking**	**Scrap It**
18. Personal Scavenger Hunt.	( )	( )	( )	( )
19. Student Services Arcade.	( )	( )	( )	( )
20. Orientation Movie.	( )	( )	( )	( )
21. Advisory information and assistance.	( )	( )	( )	( )
	Very Aware	**Aware**	**Unaware**	
22. Please rate your awareness of how and where to use most campus support services (Financial Aid, Dean of Students, Union, Career Center, etc.)	( )	( )	( )	

PLEASE CHECK ANY OF THE FOLLOWING LEARNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN. LEAVE YOUR NAME IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A PROGRAM SO THAT YOU MAY BE CONTACTED.

( ) 23. Time Management

( ) 24. Writing Skills

( ) 25. Reading Skills (Remedial or Speed Reading)

( ) 26. Math Skills

( ) 27. Study Skills

( ) 28. Test-taking Strategies

( ) 29. Other (Please Specify): _____

NAME _____ (For learning assistance programs only)

Thank you for your time and effort! Comment on back as necessary. Have a great year!

FIGURE 1.

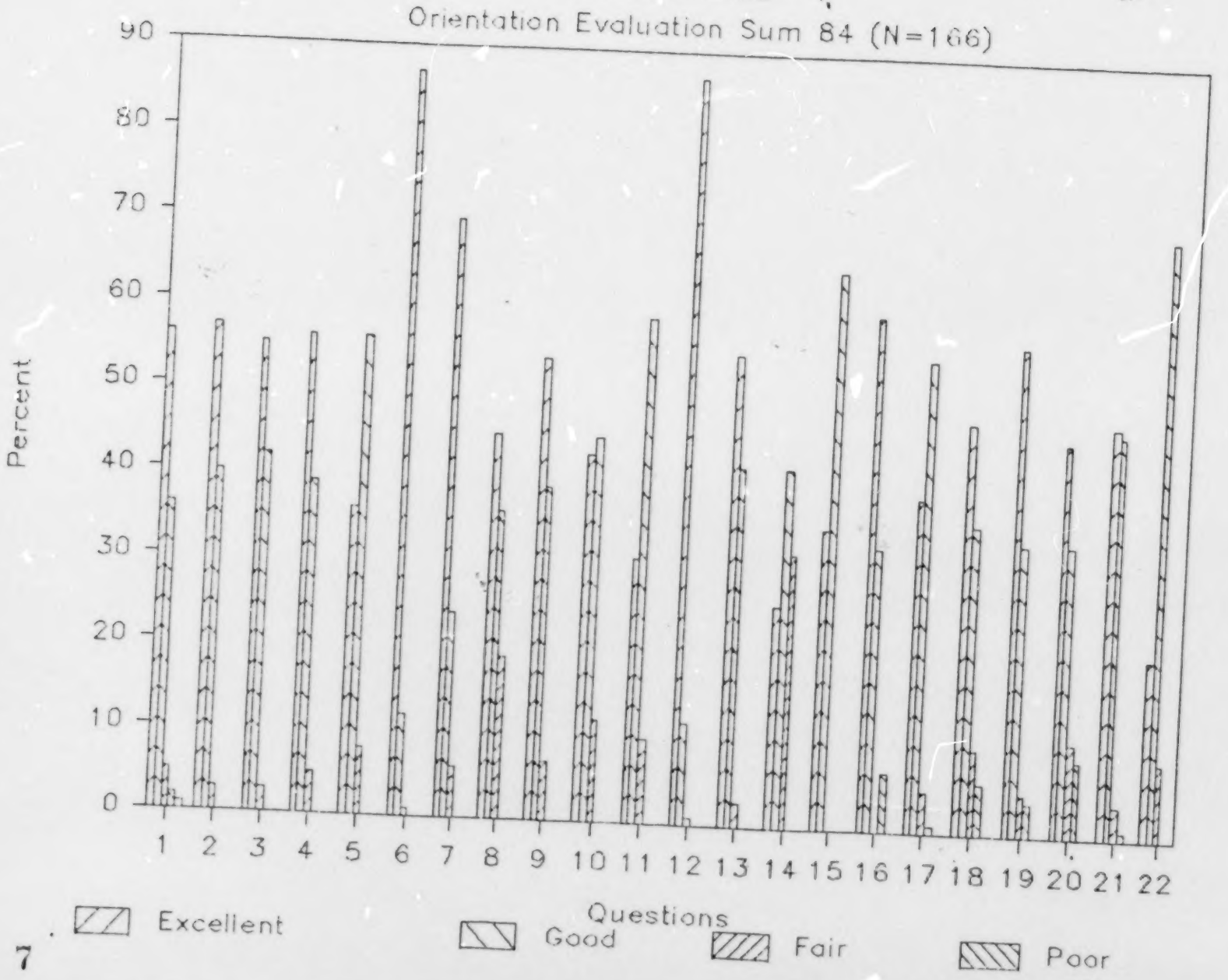
Orientation Evaluation Sum 84 (N=166)
Percent
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
Questions
Excellent
Good
Fair
Poor

FIGURE 2

Overall Orientation Exp (N = 158)

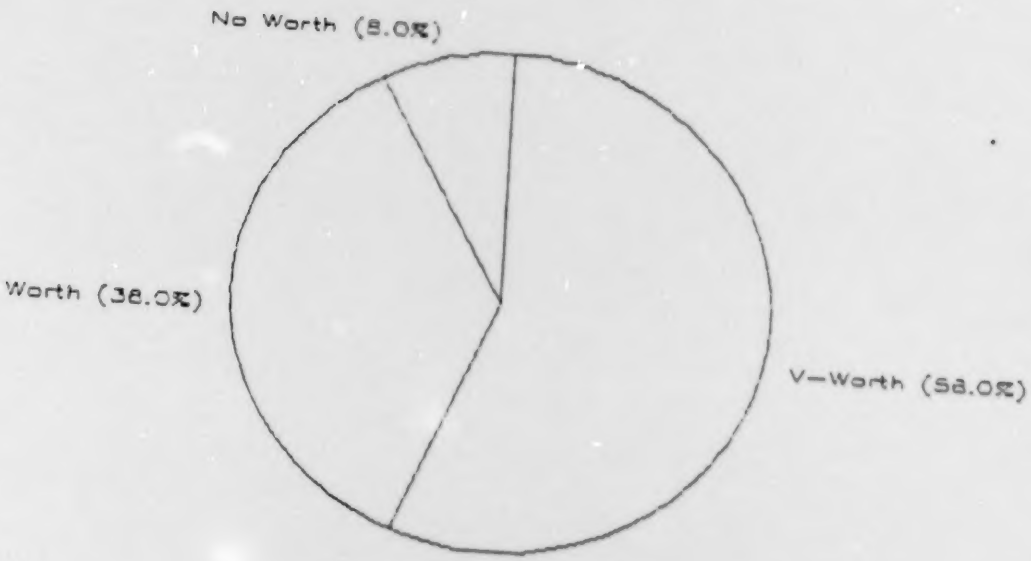

FIGURE 3

Student Affairs Assistance

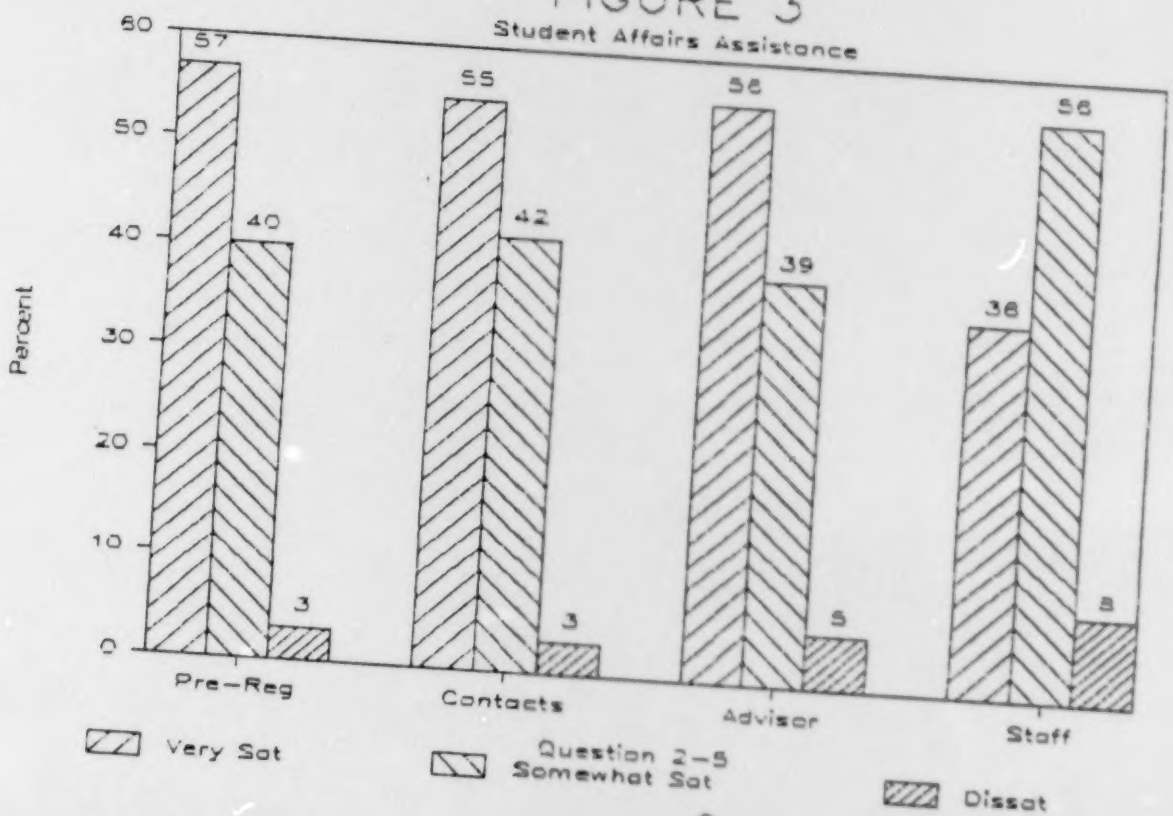

FIGURE 4

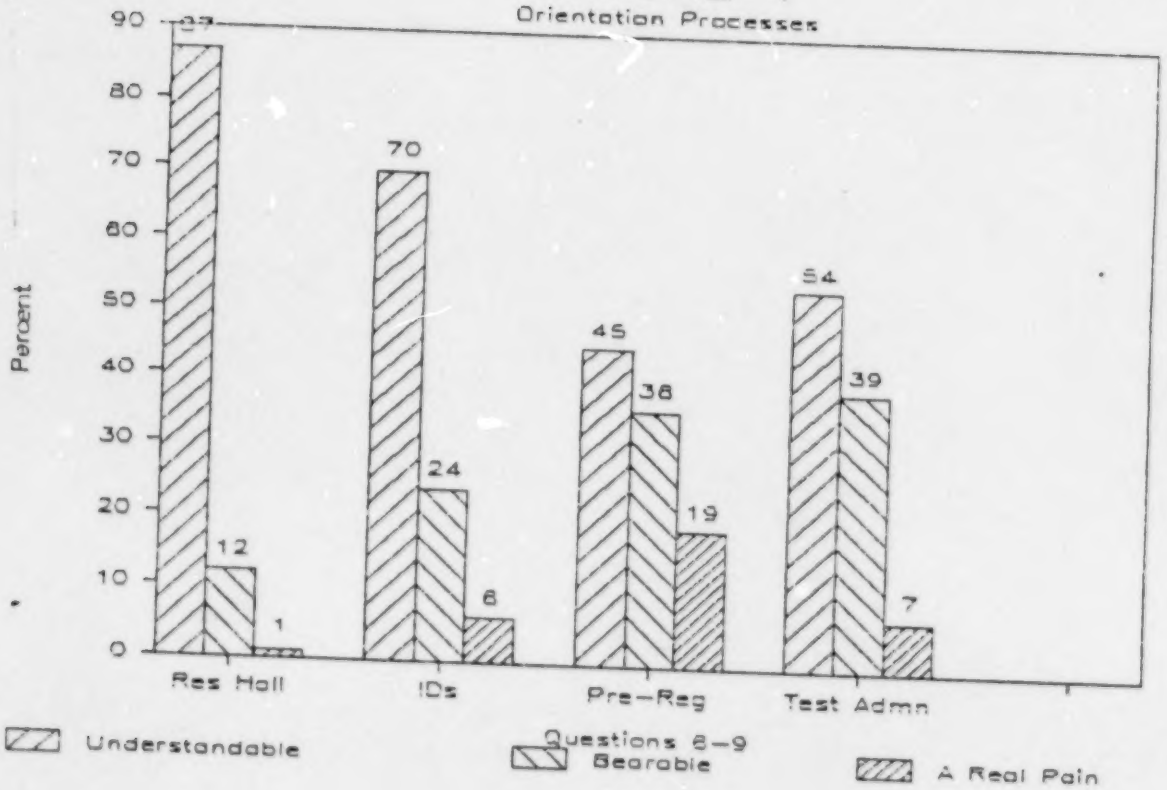

FIGURE 5

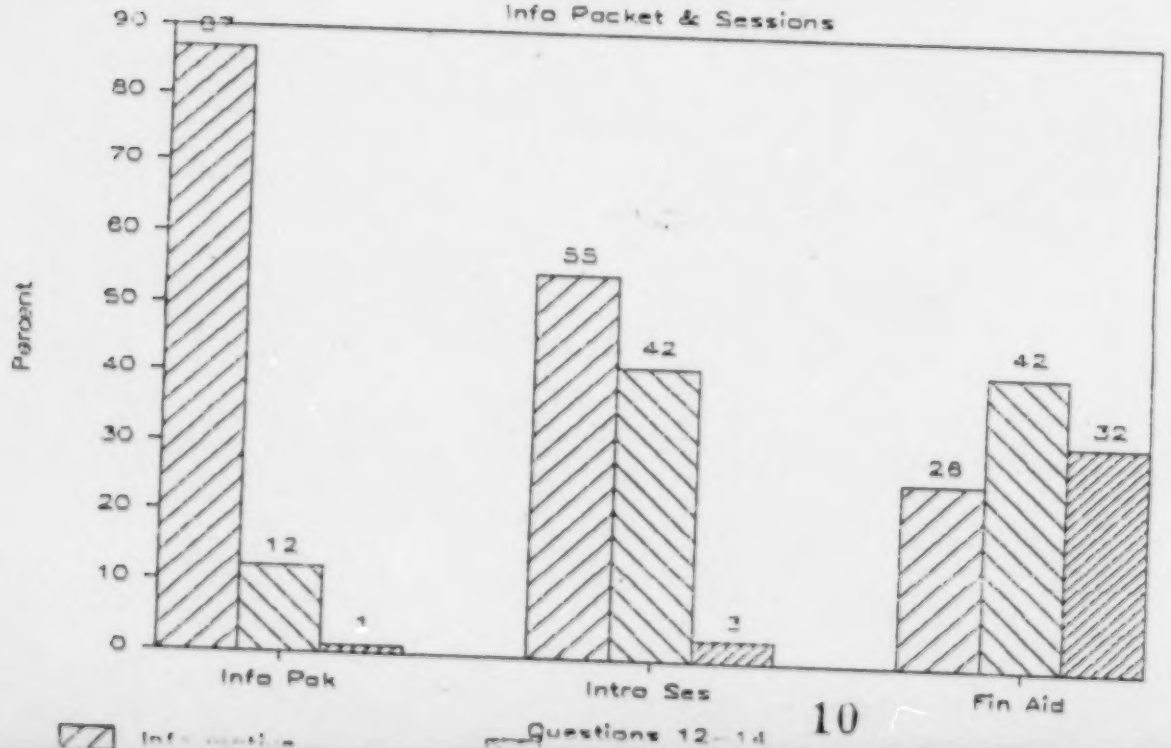

FIGURE 6

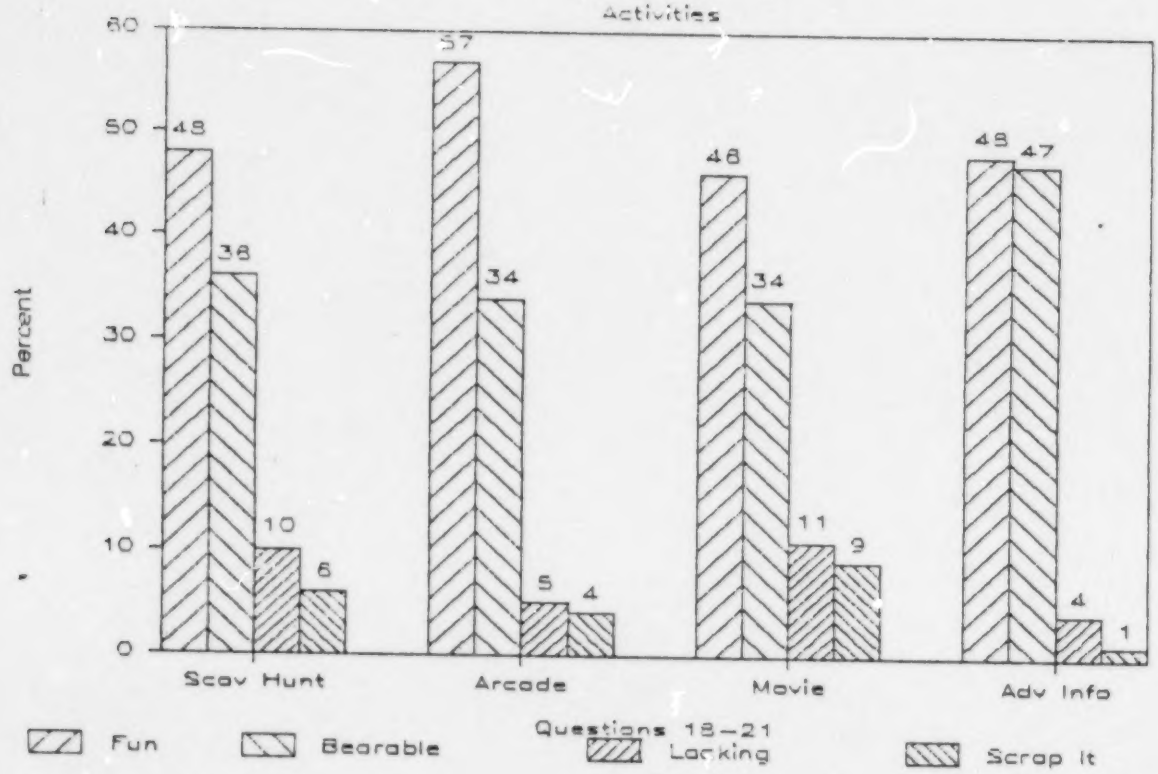

FIGURE 7